

define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Favorable consideration is requested. Dependent Claims 5, 9, 14 and 17 have been amended accordingly.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended to delete the term "additionally". Applicants therefore submit that all pending claims fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 9, 10 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,622,592 (Ikehata et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 4,431,870 (May et al.) and U.S. Patent 4,566,127 (Sekiya et al.). Claim 11 was further rejected under Section 103 as unpatentable over Ikehata et al. in view of May et al. and Sekiya et al., and further in view of the publication entitled "The Front, a Hand-Held Computer".

As shown above, independent Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended in terms which more clearly define the present invention. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application (see e.g., Fig. 1, auxiliary storage 6, Fig. 17A, S45, Fig. 19C, S125-127, and the accompanying text). Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1, 4 and 6 are patentably distinguished from the art applied against them, for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' invention as recited in amended independent Claim 1, is directed to an image processing apparatus including, inter alia, reading means for reading image information including character data including a phone number recorded on a recording medium, recognizing means for recognizing the character data in the image information read by the reading means, registering means for registering a phone number, and memory control means for controlling the registering means to register the phone number in accordance with the character data recognized by the recognizing means, and for causing the registering means to register a plurality of such phone numbers sequentially. Also included are searching means for searching the plurality of phone numbers registered in the registering means for a desired phone number, display means for displaying a plurality of phone numbers searched by the searching means, the image information read by the reading means and the character data recognized by the recognizing means, selecting means for selecting one of the phone numbers, and means for storing a document to be transmitted. Communication control means is further provided for performing communication processing on the basis of the one phone number selected by the selecting means, wherein the communication control means performs control of transmission of the document to be transmitted on the basis of the desired phone number searched for by the searching means.

In addition to the above features, Claim 4 also recites manual means for correcting and changing the character data displayed on the display means, and Claim 6 recites the features of Claim 1, except that the display means displays the plurality of phone numbers searched by the searching means.

Applicants' invention, as set forth in those claims thus is directed to an information processing apparatus in which a telephone number is recognized from input image information and registered in registering means. This registering means can then be searched for a desired telephone number, whereupon the desired telephone number is selected and information is transmitted using the selected telephone number.

Applicants have failed to find in the cited art a disclosure or suggestion of inter alia, memory control means for controlling a registering means to register a phone number read and recognized as recited in Claims 1, 4 and 6.

In this regard, Applicants understand Ikehata et al. to disclose a word processor connected to a facsimile apparatus. More specifically, data such as a phone number is input from the word processor and is then transmitted to the facsimile apparatus (see e.g., Column 1, lines 48-52 and 64-68). However, Ikehata et al. does not relate to character recognition and, consequently, does not input the phone

number or include memory control means, as recited in the independent claims.

Similarly, May et al. is understood by Applicants to relate to automatic dialing using a number input from a keyboard.

Sekiya et al. does relate to character recognition, e.g., Fig. 9 (E3-E13) and to Column 7, lines 27-43. However, Applicants have found no teaching or suggestion that a phone number is input by reading image information from which character data including the phone number is recognized, or that such a phone number within the character data is subject to a memory control means for controlling a registering means to register this phone number.

Thus, the applied references fail, even in combination, to provide a teaching for all of the limitations in amended Claims 1, 4 and 6. Moreover, Applicants submit that such a combination would be improper because there is no suggestion, within the prior art, to make such a combination. In this regard, Applicants note that observations of advantageous results are insufficient grounds for combination since they do not represent a suggestion found within the prior art and stem from impermissible hindsight. ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

A review of the other art of record, including the publication "The Front, a Hand-Held Computer, has failed to

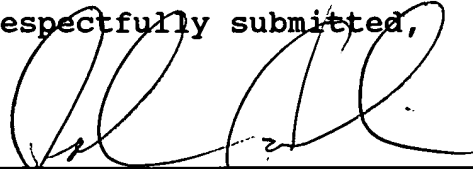
reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of this response, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 758-2400 or by facsimile at (212) 758-2982. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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